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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 006770

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/30/2016
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [KTIA](#) [EAID](#) [ID](#)
SUBJECT: STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA

REF: A. JAKARTA 6656
[1](#)B. STATE 86516

Classified By: Amb. B. Lynn Pascoe, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) May 30, PolCouns pressed Harry Purwanto, Foreign Ministry Director for North and Central American Affairs, about our pending request for a temporary SOFA agreement in connection with the Yogyakarta earthquake relief effort. Purwanto replied that "internal consultations" were ongoing, and said the Indonesians were concerned with provisions relating to the possible carrying of weapons and uniforms by U.S. military personnel. PolCouns replied that U.S. military personnel were already on the ground in uniform, and that the Office of the President had agreed to their use. The question of weapons had been handled on the ground during the Aceh and Nias emergencies in cooperation with the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) without a problem. U.S. military personnel have and would deal with weapons issues in a sensitive manner. Purwanto mused that it might be best to avoid the SOFA question altogether. PolCouns replied that an agreement was vital in case there was an accident or similar event, and urged that no changes be proposed by the Indonesian side. Purwanto closed by saying he would not decide the question, and that the Ministry would try to provide an answer quickly.

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: While not a formal answer, we take Purwanto's comments to mean that the Foreign Ministry will not be quick or easy, and it may well seek changes to the January 2005 text, particularly with respect to weapons. We will seek other avenues to pursue the issue within the GOI.
End Comment

PASCOE